

BACKGROUND:

Every ten years, agencies with by-district election systems must use new census data to review and, if needed, redraw electoral division lines to reflect how local populations have changed. This process, called redistricting, ensures all divisions comply with both the California Education Code and the federal Voting Rights Act. Requirements for redistricting include:

Revised electoral districts must achieve one or both of the following:

- The population of each area is, as nearly as may be, the same proportion of the total population of the district as the ratio that the number of governing board members elected from the area bears to the total number of members of the governing board.
- The population of each area is, as nearly as may be, the same proportion of the total population of the district as each of the other areas.

Other factors that influence the drawing of trustee area maps:

- Population equality is based on total population of District residents (not students) per U.S. Census. Incarcerated persons only counted if last known residence may be assigned to a City census block
- In adjusting the boundaries of the divisions, the board may give consideration to the following factors:
 - (1) topography,
 - (2) geography,
 - (3) cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, and compactness of territory, and
 - (4) community of interests of the division.
- Boundaries shall not be drawn to favor or discriminate against a political party.

Analysis of the district's current trustee area boundaries, adjusted for the 2020 Census data, shows the trustee areas are no longer population-balanced. The district's population is 450,704. The ideal trustee area population is one-fifth of that number, or 90,141.

Determining population balance is done by measuring the spread, or deviation, between the least populated area and the greatest populated area. Deviations of 10% or less are generally considered acceptable under U.S. Supreme Court rulings on the equal population standard under the U.S. Constitution.

The current population of Trustee Area 2 is measured at 6.76% over the ideal while Trustee Area 4 is below the ideal at -4.21%. Combined, those deviations bring the district's current total deviation to 10.97%. As such, the trustee area boundaries must be adjusted to achieve a population balance with less than a 10% deviation.

Another consideration is the distribution of minority voters throughout the agency, and whether there is a possibility of creating a majority/minority voting district as addressed in the federal Voting Rights Act. This analysis involves reviewing the ethnicity demographics from the census data, specifically citizens of voting age populations (CVAP). Upon review of the district's CVAP data, creation of a majority/minority voting district (a division in which an identified minority comprises the majority of voting age population) is possible. Trustee Areas 1 and 5 are already majority/minority Hispanic voting districts. Further analysis will be conducted following the drafting of revised trustee area boundaries to ensure minority voice representation is maintained.

A detailed demographic analysis of the district's current division boundaries may be found in Attachment 1.

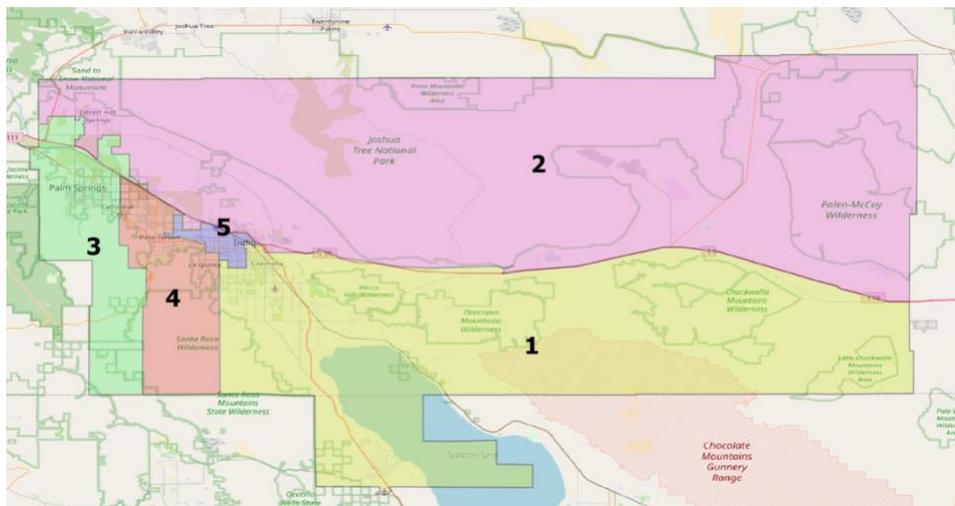
To engage the community in the redistricting process, the District formed a Citizens Advisory Committee. The Committee has met regularly since October. On November 30, 2021, the District's redistricting consultant presented two map options for the Committee's consideration. On December 17, 2021 a Joint Board/Citizens Advisory Committee meeting was held wherein the consultant share the two draft map options for the Boards initial review.

In addition to public meetings and workshops, the Board must hold at least one public hearing before adopting revised trustee area boundaries. At the public hearing, the district's redistricting consultant will provide detailed information regarding the two map options, highlighted below.

DRAFT MAP OPTIONS

Map Option 1

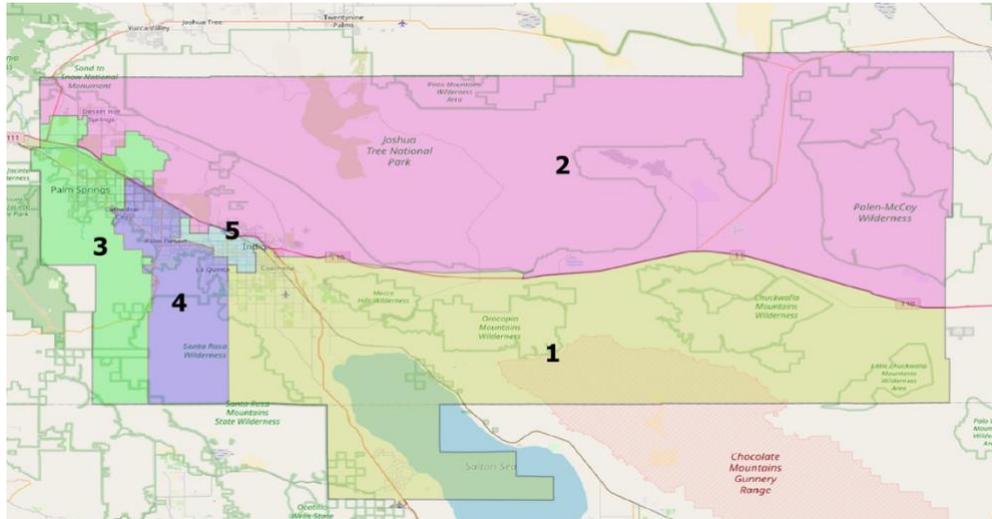
Option 1 makes minimal changes to the existing boundaries. Districts 1, 4 & 5 are unchanged. Excess population is moved from Trustee Area 2 into Trustee Area 3 to create a lower total deviation of 6.48%. Trustee Areas 2 & 3 are on the same election cycle so moving between the two does not affect when a person gets to vote. There are some jagged boundary lines in Trustee Area 3, which are a result of irregular municipal boundaries. Every attempt was made to keep municipalities together if possible. Option 1 maintains Trustee Areas 1 and 5 as majority/minority Hispanic voting districts.



Map

Option 2

Option 2 also preserves the core of existing districts, and makes no changes to Trustee Areas 1 and 5. The majority of the changes in Option 2 is moving populations from Trustee Areas 2 and 3 into Cathedral City in Trustee Area 4. A total of 6,942 persons (3,858 voters)(6% of voters) were moved from Trustee Area 2 into a combination of Trustee Areas 3 and 4. Trustee Area 4 is on a separate voting cycle from Trustee Areas 2 and 3, so all attempts were made to move as few voters as possible. The total deviation in Map Option 2 is 1.77%



A detailed demographic analysis of both map options may be found in Attachment 2. At the hearing, the consultant will use an online mapping tool to highlight the Trustee Areas in detail, including Zoom function and search capabilities.

Next Steps

At tonight's Public Hearing, the Board and community are asked to comment on the proposed maps and/or recommend a particular map for adoption. In the event the Board desires revisions to one or both maps, or wishes to see a third alternative entirely, the Agency's redistricting consultant will complete those revisions and return to the Citizens Advisory Committee on January 28, 2022. Should the Board determine one of the two proposed map options is desirable, the Board may approve the map and direct staff to return with a Resolution formally adopting the district boundaries at the February 17, 2022 board meeting. The deadline to adopt the final map is March 1, 2022.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Board conduct a Public Hearing to review draft maps redrawing Agency Division Election District boundaries; and
2. Provide direction, if desired, to the Agency's redistricting consultant to prepare revised maps for consideration at a Citizens Advisory Committee meeting on January 28 2022; or
3. Adopt a draft map option and direct staff to return at the February 17, 2022 board meeting with a Resolution finalizing the approval process.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Demographic Analysis of Current Boundaries
2. Maps and Demographic Analysis